

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. WEAT/0353

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated December 15, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on March 15, 2005. Claims 1-21 are currently pending in the application. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 19-21 as being anticipated by *Restarick, et al.* In response, Applicants have amended claims 19-21.

As amended, claims 19-21 include the limitation of a fiber deployable in the first conduit, wherein a plurality of flow cups are disposed on the fiber to increase a hydraulic deployment force created by fluid pumped through the first conduit. *Restarick, et al.* does not disclose fiber having a plurality of flow cups to increase a hydraulic deployment force created by fluid pumped through the first conduit. Rather, *Restarick, et al.* seems to be silent as to the method of deployment of a fiber in the coupling that connects the sections of a gravel pack assembly. *Restarick, et al.*, therefore fails to teach each and every limitation of claims 19-21 and this failure prevents *Restarick, et al.* from anticipating claims 19-21. For the reasons discussed herein, Applicants submit that claims 19-21 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 1-18 are allowed. Applicants appreciate allowance of claims 1-18.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed.

The secondary references made of record are noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicants' disclosure than the

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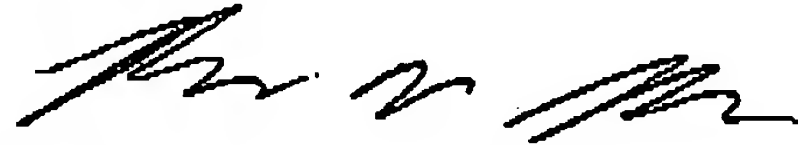
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primary references cited in the office action. Therefore, Applicants believe that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not necessary for a full and complete response to this office action.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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